DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BENGAL.

NOTE ON THE WORK OF THE BURDWAN AGRICULTURAL STATION

FOR THE YEAR

1910-11.

CALCUTTA:

BENGAL SECRETARIAT BOOK DEPÔT.

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NOTE ON THE WORK OF THE BURDWAN AGRICULTURAL STATION, 1910-11.

The results of the work at this station were summarized in the report for the year 1906-07. In the following two years attention was chiefly given to jute which was found to be worth growing with the help of heavy manuring when the price is sufficiently high. Good results have also been obtained with Java sugarcane. But the chief results obtained are those which demonstrate the value on bonemeal and saltpetre as manures on this land.

An extraordinary return was obtained from the use of 3 maunds of bonemeal and 1 of saltpetre over a long series of years, and though there is some reason to suppose that these earlier results should be somewhat discounted as having been obtained under less careful supervision than the more conservative result of the last six years, these latter are still sufficiently striking to warrant the use of this farm almost exclusively for the demonstration of the value of these manures for the district.

The residues of the previous year's manuring having therefore been exhausted during 1910-11 the experiments were discontinued, and the farm is now being utilized mainly for such demonstration.

Green manuring with *dhaincha* having been demonstrated to be everywhere, when practicable, perhaps the most economical of all systems, as much of the paddy area as possible is treated in this way and the reminder is manured with bonemeal and superphosphate. A rotation of the two methods of manuring will be maintained as far as practicable, the area that can be sown with green manure being limited by the rainfall and the amount of water available for irrigation.

The water-supply during the dry weather will be utilized as far as it can be relied upon for sugarcane; farm-yard manure, oil cake and bonemeal being used for this crop before planting and saltpetre applied as a top-dressing to the growing

crop at intervals when there is no danger of its being washed away by heavy rain.

These are all indigenous manures, the last three of which are at present largely exported, and the experience obtained here and at Cuttack and Dumraon leaves no doubt that their judicious use on sugarcane will pay well. In view of the striking results obtained at Cuttack the "Mango" cane from Shahabad as well as the Java and Mauritius canes will be kept in view as likely to be profitable, and, if good results continue to be obtained from small areas of any of these, their cultivation on the farm will be proportionally extended.

The essential part of the work of a demonstration farm is the keeping of accounts, showing not only how each crop and practice pay, but how they can be incorporated in a system comprising definite rotations which pays in the aggregate. Special attention will therefore be given to the system of accounts on this farm so as to enable a satisfactory balance sheet to be obtained.

In view of this and of the overshadowing importance of demonstrating the value of the manures referred to, all other crops and experiments that have not been demonstrated to pay will be confined to small areas, the expenditure on which, if of sufficient magnitude to prejudice the financial aspect of the farm as a whole, will be kept in a separate account.

A. C. Dobbs.

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